

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-22 were pending. By the present response, claims 2, 4-5, 8, 10, 13, 15-16 and 18-22 have been amended, claims 1 and 17 canceled, and claims 23-42 have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2-16 and 18-42 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 13, 14 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form as noted in paragraph 6 of the Official Action. By the present response, claims 13 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form. Further, claims 2-12 and 14-16 now depend from allowable claim 13. Also, claims 18-21 now depend from allowable claim 22. Accordingly, at least claims 2-16 and 18-22 are allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,989,850 to Weller (hereafter "*Weller*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted

below, this rejection should be withdrawn. Also, Claims 1-12 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,897,051 to Muller (hereafter "*Muller*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 17 have been canceled and the rejections of these claims are moot. The remaining claims at issue here now depend from allowable claims 13 or 22, thereby obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,692,300 to Mebus (hereafter "*Mebus*") in view of *Muller* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 5 of the Official Action. For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 17 has been canceled and the rejection of this claim is moot. Claim 21 now depends from allowable claim 22, thereby obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 23-42 have been added. These claims present different combinations of the features of original claims 1-22. Exemplary distinguishing features of the new independent claims, e.g., claims 23 and 38 are discussed below in relation to the art and rejections of record.

Weller discloses a signature machine for printing. The machine transports signatures from a supply magazine 52, down a raceway, past an ink jet printer 75 and dryer 78, to register gauge or set of stops 80 (see Fig. 1). At this position, the signatures are ready to be folded. See column 4, line 53. Folding is done by a pair of opposed folding and delivering belts 82, 84, with aid of a folding knife. See column 4, lines 54-56. The signatures are advanced to cylinder 40 (column 4, lines 62-63). The operation of the rotating cylinder 40 is described at column 4, lines 3-14. Here, *Weller* describes that the cylinder 40 continues to turn clockwise and that cooperating lap cylinder 87 and opening cylinder 88 open the signature and drop it onto the saddle conveyor 90.

Comparing the disclosure in *Weller* to the claims presented here, Applicant notes the following. First, *Weller* uses a drum/cylinder to invert the signatures. In contrast, Applicant's new claims variously describe, among other distinguishing features, a system with an inverting mechanism that a) inverts the sheet by lifting a trailing edge of the folded sheet over a leading edge of the sheet (claim 23 and claim 38); b) includes a belt drive (claim 28); c) includes a gear and rack drive (claim 29); d) has a movable roller that is movable along a blade member (claim 37). It is respectfully asserted that claims containing the above-noted features distinguish over the disclosure in *Weller* such that they are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of that disclosure.

Müller discloses a method and apparatus for making folded stacks of printed sheets. As shown in Figure 2 of *Müller*, a rotating gripper drum 28 transfers the folded sheets through positioning rollers 29 and onto a conveyor 30. In contrast to some of the features of Applicant's new claims, *Müller* does not disclose, teach or

suggest an inverting mechanism that lifts a trailing edge of the sheet and passes the trailing edge of the sheet over a leading edge of the sheet, that includes a belt drive, that includes a gear and rack drive, or where a fold forming member includes a movable roller which is movable along the blade member. For at least these reasons, Applicant's new claims distinguish over the disclosure in *Müller*.

Mebus discloses a feed folder unit. The unit includes drum 14 which rotates to move folded signatures through transfer cylinder 18 and opener cylinder 20 to deposit the signatures on saddle conveyor chain 22. In contrast to some of the features in Applicant's new claims, *Mebus* does not disclose, teach or suggest an inverting mechanism that lifts a trailing edge of the sheet and passes the trailing edge of the sheet over a leading edge of the sheet, that includes a belt drive, that includes a gear and rack drive, or where a fold forming member includes a movable roller which is movable along the blade member. For at least the above-noted reasons, applicant's claims distinguish over the disclosure in *Mebus*.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 29, 2004

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